

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 337

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION recognizing Kermit Davis, head coach of Middle Tennessee State University men's basketball team.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those individuals who, through their commitment to the pursuit of excellence and their dedication to the education of young minds, have brought honor to themselves, their schools, their communities, and this State; and

WHEREAS, Kermit Davis, head coach of the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Blue Raiders men's basketball team, is one such intrepid individual who has attained a hitherto unseen level of accomplishment and success during his time at the helm of the program; and

WHEREAS, in his eleven years as the head coach of the Blue Raiders, Coach Davis has built the program into one which is respected in both the Sun Belt Conference and throughout the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and the Blue Raiders just completed one of the best seasons in the history of the program; and

WHEREAS, in the 2012-2013 season, Kermit Davis and the Blue Raiders finished the season with twenty-eight wins, nineteen conference wins, and eleven road wins, establishing new program records in all three categories. The Blue Raiders also ran off a seventeen-game win streak, which was the longest such streak in the country at the time, and captured the 2013 regular-season Sun Belt Conference title, a title the Blue Raiders also won in 2010 and 2012; and

WHEREAS, this most recent season also saw the Blue Raiders ranked in the top twenty-five nationally for its recruiting class, the sixth time the team has been so ranked during Coach Davis's tenure; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders finished the season with a perfect home record of sixteen wins to zero losses, one of only three teams to do so, and the team gained votes in the *USA Today* Coaches Poll for eight straight weeks, rising as high as twenty-sixth in the national rankings; and

WHEREAS, several of Coach Davis's players earned individual honors this season, including Bruce Massey, who was named the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year and selected an All-Sun Belt player; Marcos Knight, who was chosen an All-Sun Belt player and named to the NABC All-District First Team for the second time, becoming MTSU's first player to be honored by the organization twice; and Raymond Clinton, who was chosen an All-Sun Belt player; and

WHEREAS, perhaps most impressively, Coach Davis and the Blue Raiders players attended the Big Dance, marking the first time MTSU appeared in the NCAA Tournament in twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, with 117 Sun Belt Conference wins, Kermit Davis is the winningest coach in Sun Belt Conference history, and with 208 wins at MTSU, he is the university's all-time winningest coach. His teams have garnered fifty-five wins and twenty-two road wins during the past two seasons, which ranks them nationally in the top ten and second, respectively. Coach Davis's fifty-five league road wins are the most in the Sun Belt over the past eleven seasons, and his fifty-six league wins in the past four seasons lead all other coaches; and

WHEREAS, during his eleven seasons, Coach Davis has coached some of the finest athletes in the country, including those players who became MTSU's leading scorer and assist leader, the eighteen players who were named All-Sun Belt Selections, and the 2012 Sun Belt Player of the Year and the 2013 Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, his players have not only found success on the floor, but also in the classroom. Kermit Davis has seen twenty-nine consecutive student-athletes, all of whom had exhausted their eligibility, earn their degrees; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades during his years at MTSU, Kermit Davis was named the Sun Belt Coach of the Year in 2003, 2012, and 2013; the NABC District 24 Coach of the Year in 2012 and 2013; and the College Insider Sun Belt Coach of the Year in 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2013; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining the MTSU family, Coach Davis rendered sterling service as the associate head coach at Louisiana State University, where his team captured the 2000 Southeastern Conference Championship and advanced to the Sweet 16; and

WHEREAS, prior to his tenure at Louisiana State, Kermit Davis coached at Idaho, where his 1989 and 1990 teams earned berths in the NCAA Tournament and garnered Big Sky Conference regular season and conference championships. Coach Davis also earned 1989 and 1990 Big Sky Coach of the Year honors; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years as the head coach of MTSU's program, Kermit Davis has stood as a beacon of integrity, giving his players the tools necessary to win both on the court and in life, and serving as a shining example of excellence and unwavering dedication to his players, his school, and to the State of Tennessee, and it is wholly fitting that he be recognized by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and commend Kermit Davis, applauding his many impressive accomplishments and extending our best wishes for his continued success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.